

NATURAL BRIDGES NATIONAL MONUMENT

2005 Research Permits

Permit#: NABR-2004-SCI-0001

Principal Investigator: Mr James Von Loh, e2M, 9563 South Kingston Court, Suite 200,
Englewood, CO 80112

Project Title:

**VEGETATION DATA COLLECTION IN SUPPORT OF THE U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY -
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE VEGETATION CLASSIFICATION AND MAPPING PROGRAM
AT NATURAL BRIDGES NATIONAL MONUMENT**

Objectives:

The National Park Service (NPS) and U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) are cooperating to produce detailed vegetation classifications and digital databases, including vegetation maps, as part of the National Biological Information Infrastructure Program (NBII).

Findings and Status:

The vegetation classification and mapping project at NABR progressed during 2004. Descriptions of the 28 vegetation associations recognized by the NVCS within NABR were prepared and a field key to each association was developed in the winter of 2004. Photointerpretation of NABR was conducted during the summer of 2004 and maps with polygons and selected random points were provided by the NPS NCPN GIS specialist. The AA data collection effort was conducted in October 2004; 293 random AA points were selected for the NABR analysis. In total, AA data from 288 points were collected during the two field sessions. Some points were inaccessible because they were located in between vertical cliff walls. The AA data were entered into an Access database in November 2004. The final vegetation classification and map is currently being written and prepared and will be available in 2005.

HOVENWEEP NATIONAL MONUMENT

2005 Research Permits

Permit#: HOVE-2004-SCI-0001

Principal Investigator: Mr James Von Loh, e2M, 9563 South Kingston Court, Suite 200,
Englewood, CO 80112

Project Title:

**VEGETATION DATA COLLECTION IN SUPPORT OF THE U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY -
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE VEGETATION CLASSIFICATION AND MAPPING PROGRAM
AT HOVENWEEP NATIONAL MONUMENT**

Objectives:

The National Park Service (NPS) and U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) are cooperating to produce detailed vegetation classifications and digital databases, including vegetation maps, as part of the National Biological Information Infrastructure Program. Approximately 250 national parks and monuments will benefit from this cooperative effort upon successful program completion. The National Park Vegetation Classification and Mapping Program is a strong component of the NPS Inventory and Monitoring Program, established in 1991, and is based on a repeatable set of standards and flexible protocols. Sampling at Hovenweep will be conducted in accordance with the Vegetation Classification and Mapping Work Plan developed for other parks in the Southeast Utah Group (i.e., Canyonlands, Arches, Natural Bridges), which has been reviewed by USGS-NPS Vegetation Classification and Mapping Program leaders, Northern Colorado Plateau Network (NCPN) ecologists, and/or Southeast Utah Group ecologists. This work plan will serve as the basis for all such efforts at the park, including sampling methodology, and should be considered as the study proposal. Copies of the work plan, both electronic and hard-copies, are available through the NCPN Inventory and Monitoring Program, or from the Southeast Utah Group.

Findings and Status:

While no field data collection was performed in HOVE in 2004, several other vegetation classification and mapping tasks were conducted. The preliminary classification, which was prepared in 2003, was finalized. Local descriptions are currently being written to describe the 30 recognized vegetation associations. A field key is being developed to be used during the accuracy assessment in 2005. A draft final report template was prepared and populated with available information. Photointerpretation is currently being conducted and in 2005 points will be selected and visited.